(679)

HARRISON A. WILLIAMS, JR.
NEW JERSEY

P800117-0485

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

ACTION
is assigned to
P&Pc

August 22, 1980

Department of State
Congressional Relations
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Director:

Enclosed you will find correspondence I have received from Mr. Bert B. Lockwood of Cincinnati, Ohio.

I would appreciate any information which will enable me to respond to his inquiry. Please return the enclosed correspondence with your report.

With kindest regards.

Sincerely,

Harrison A. Williams, Jr.

1980 AUG 27 PM 2 45
DOCUMENT HANDLING

HAW/ps
Enclosure

Re: The trial of Kim Dae Jungein
Korea
From: Bert B. Lockwood

(2)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC MR

REVIEWED BY HT DATE 8/18/82

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University of Cincinnati
Cincinnati, Ohio 45221

COLLEGE OF LAW

AM 8 59

August 18, 1980

The Honorable Harrison Williams
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Williams:

I would like to draw your attention to the fact that the South Korean Government is prohibiting outside observers representing prominent non-governmental organizations from attending the impending trial of Mr. Kim Dae Jung, the opposition leader. Concern respecting the prospects for a fair and open trial has been heightened by the fact that the three lawyers who were to represent Mr. Kim have been arrested (and by some accounts tortured). Two of the lawyers have been released but only after they signed a statement indicating that they would not represent Mr. Kim. The third lawyer remains in prison.

The International Commission of Jurists, a prominent nongovernmental organization based in Geneva, asked me to act as an Observer for the Commission to the Kim trial. I agreed and at the suggestion of the State Department I applied for a visa with the Korean Embassy in Washington on Friday, August 8, and they denied it while I was waiting. I was informed that they had received instructions from the Home Office that morning to deny my application. It is my understanding that observers from Amnesty International also have been denied visas.

The State Department has been unsuccessful in its efforts to secure permission from the Korean Government for representatives of nongovernmental organizations. We feel it is imperative that observers from prominent nongovernmental organizations be allowed to observe the proceedings, and our concern reflects the reality that observers from governments are necessarily constrained by other considerations in making their reports.

As you know, the trial has now begun and the counsel for Mr. Kim has been appointed by the Government. The right to counsel of one's choosing and to a fair and open trial are basic human rights. I would appreciate your issuing a statement expressing your concern over the apparent disregard of these basic rights.

I appreciate your consideration of this matter. If you would like further information, I may be reached at (513) 475-4307.

Sincerely,

Bert B. Lockwood
Director, Urban Morgan Institute
for Human Rights

BBL:dr